Abstract

A unit for on-demand chemical etch. A stencil medium is a sandwich comprised of a mesh married to a carrier by a coat of pressure-sensitive . The mesh of the stencil medium is printed upon. After the mesh is printed, the carrier is peeled away and is rewound onto a carrier rewind hub, leaving only the printed mesh. This printed mesh is transported underneath an etching electrode, at which time, the electrode actuates downward, sandwiching the printed mesh between the electrode and a target object so that the chemical etching process may be performed. The stencil printing and etch functions can be provided in a handheld unit. The handheld unit is comprised of an actuating etching head, a print head, a ribbon support system and stencil medium support system.

481062.409 / 844256_1.DOC